

Staff Report

Report To: Corporate Services Committee
Report From: Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services
Meeting Date: February 6, 2025
Report Code: CR-25-017
Subject: Climate Action Strategy Annual Report

Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-25-017 respecting Climate Action Strategy Annual Report, the Corporate Services Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes.

Highlights:

- The City implemented a Climate Action Strategy in July 2023.
- The Climate Action Strategy includes the Corporate Climate Action Plan and the Climate Mitigation Plan.
- The two above-mentioned plans include 61 action items, of which 36 are in process or have been completed.
- The City continues to work on the in-process and yet-to-be-started action items through an internal Climate Action Strategy Implementation Committee.

Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Green City.

The City's Strategic Plan item KR5 included the development of a Climate Mitigation Plan, which has been incorporated into the City's Climate Action Strategy.

Climate and Environmental Implications:

This supports the objectives of the City's Corporate Climate Change Adaptation Plan by considering climate adaptation in the development of the City's strategies, plans, and policies.

Previous Report/Authority:

Council approved the Climate Action Strategy through [Report CM-23-011](#), which was presented to the Operations Committee on July 20, 2023, and approved by Council on July 24, 2023.

Background:

This report has been drafted to support a recommendation within the Climate Action Strategy to report on the City's annual progress in implementing the various plans that support the strategy.

Analysis:

The City's Climate Action Strategy administration is through an internal Climate Action Strategy Implementation Committee that consists of staff from all the City's departments with items included within the various plans. The Manager of Corporate Services leads the committee and is responsible for communication between the committee, the Strategic Leadership Team, and Committee/Council as required. The Manager of Corporate Services is also responsible for liaising between the City and the Climate Action Team Owen Sound (CATOS), where communication with this stakeholder group can contribute to City programs and projects.

The annual report will provide an update on the projects that are in progress, completed, or will commence in 2025.

Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan

Attachment 1 to this report summarizes the status of the 25 projects within the Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan.

19 projects have been completed, 4 are proceeding as anticipated, and 2 have not started. Comments have been provided to identify timelines for completing the six items and any constraints placed on the project.

Climate Mitigation Plan

Attachment 2 to this report summarizes the status of the 36 projects contained within the Climate Mitigation Plan.

Zero projects have been completed, 13 are proceeding as anticipated, and 13 have not started. Comments have been provided to identify timelines for completing the 13 items and any constraints placed on the project.

Climate Reduction Target

As identified in the summary of the status of the action items within the City's Climate Mitigation Plan, staff are currently transitioning to a new software platform that will allow them to include all of the City's required reporting. Reporting on the status of the City's progress towards its 2026 and beyond targets will be included in the 2025 summary report.

The City's Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan, to be completed by the end of 2025, will acknowledge the City's ongoing activities that reduce the City's footprint through regular activities, such as replacing light bulbs with LED's, evaluating efficiency factors in small HVAC replacements, adjusting heating and lighting schedules in buildings that have automation control, adding pipe insulation, minor equipment routing etc. that are not considered as key actions in either of the above mentioned plans but are completed without a direct budget or reporting function.

Financial Implications:

The City's operating budget does not include a climate-specific business unit. This means that expenses for completing the various action items are included in existing operating and capital budgets.

Communication Strategy:

Community climate-related action items are assessed against the City's Community Engagement Policy. The action item lead works with the City's communications team to implement the applicable community engagement toolkit requirements.

Consultation:

Climate Action Strategy Implementation Committee

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Status of Actions in the Corporate Climate Adaptation Plan
2. Attachment 2 – Status of Actions in the Climate Mitigation Plan

Recommended by:

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services
Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services

Submission approved by:

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Bradey Carbert, Manager of Corporate Services at bcarbert@owensound.ca or 519-376-4440 ext. 1240.